



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Information Contact Public Affairs

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SINALOA MAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS FOR TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS

TUCSON, ARIZONA -- JUAN MARTINEZ-CORONADO, 34, of Concordia, Sinaloa Mexico, was sentenced, today, to thirty-six months imprisonment, by United States District Judge Frank R. Zapata, in Tucson, Arizona.

On September 29, 1999, **MARTINEZ-CORONADO** pleaded guilty to two counts of transporting illegal aliens and two counts of bringing aliens into the United States. The defendant was driving a pick-up truck with a camper shell when he refused to stop for Border Patrol agents. The defendant lost control of the vehicle and it rolled over. The camper contained 17 adults, and one child. Four of the passengers were taken to the hospital for injuries sustained in the crash. One adult suffered a broken wrist. The passengers repeatedly requested that the defendant decrease his speed, but their requests were ignored.

The law requires a minimum sentence of 36 months, for bringing illegal aliens into the United States for commercial gain. **MARTINEZ-CORONADO** was sentenced to the mandatory minimum of 36 months, however, the sentence imposed by the court included an enhancement because the defendant created a substantial risk of death or serious injury, by recklessly operating the vehicle without regard for the safety of the passengers.

(MORE)

The investigation was conducted by U.S. Border Patrol and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

The prosecution was handled by Brian Larson, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-99-341-TUC-FRZ
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